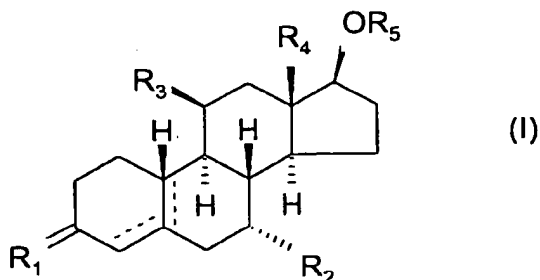


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In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the structural formula:



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)acyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is ~~(C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkyl~~, isopropyl, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or (C<sub>2-3</sub>) 1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or R<sub>2</sub> is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl or halogen;

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl, or ethenyl;

R<sub>4</sub> is (C<sub>1-2</sub>) alkyl;

R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, or (C<sub>1-15</sub>) acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds,

~~with the proviso that the compound is not (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ ) 7 ethyl 17-hydroxyestr 4 en 3 one (7 $\alpha$  ethyl 19 nortestosterone) or a carboxylic ester thereof, and is not (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ ) 17 (acetyloxy) 7-propylestr 4 en 3 one (7 $\alpha$  propyl 19 nortestosterone acetate).~~

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2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of ~~ethyl~~, ethenyl, ethynyl, ~~propyl~~, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

4. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  is oxo,  $R_3$  is hydrogen, and the dotted lines indicate a  $\Delta^4$  double bond.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  is ~~ethyl~~ or ethenyl.

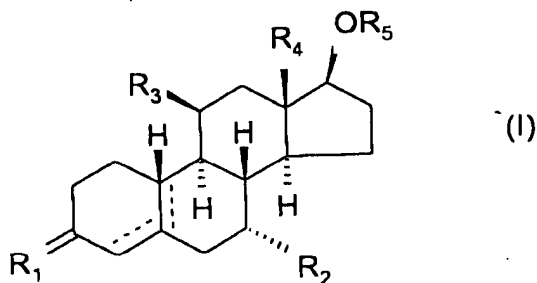
6. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of ~~(7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7,13-Diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one~~ and (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7-Ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

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a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and  
a steroid compound, as a medicinally active agent,  
satisfying formula I



wherein

$R_1$  is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen,  
( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, or ( $C_{1-6}$ )acyl;

$R_2$  is ~~( $C_{2-3}$ )alkyl~~, isopropyl, ( $C_{2-3}$ )1-alkenyl, isopropenyl,  
1,2-propadienyl, or ( $C_{2-3}$ )1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted  
by halogen; or  $R_2$  is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each  
optionally substituted by ( $C_{1-2}$ )alkyl or halogen;

$R_3$  is hydrogen, ( $C_{1-2}$ )alkyl, or ethenyl;

$R_4$  is ( $C_{1-2}$ ) alkyl;

$R_5$  is hydrogen, or ( $C_{1-15}$ )acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds.

9. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according  
to claim 8, wherein  $R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of

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ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, ~~propyl~~, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

10. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, wherein the steroid compound is selected from the group consisting of ~~(7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ ) 7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one,~~  
~~(7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ ) 7,13-diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one,~~ and (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7-ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

11. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 suitable for oral administration.

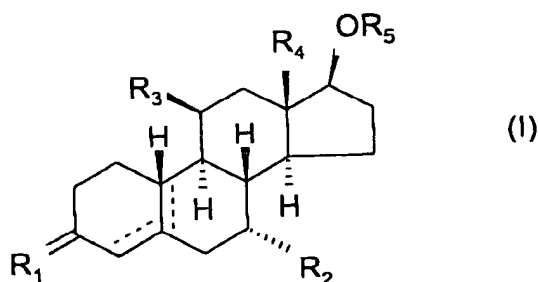
12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) A kit for male contraception comprising a progestagen and an androgen, wherein the androgen is a compound according to claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of androgen insufficiency, comprising:

administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of an androgen, wherein the androgen is a steroid compound satisfying formula I

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wherein

$R_1$  is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)acyl;

$R_2$  is ~~(C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkyl~~, isopropyl, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or  $R_2$  is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl or halogen;

$R_3$  is hydrogen, (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl, or ethenyl;

$R_4$  is (C<sub>1-2</sub>) alkyl;

$R_5$  is hydrogen, or (C<sub>1-15</sub>)acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to claim 14, wherein  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of ~~ethyl~~, ethenyl, ethynyl, ~~propyl~~, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to claim 15, wherein the steroid compound is selected from the

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group consisting of ~~(7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ ) 7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one,~~  
~~(7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ ) 7,13-diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one,~~ and (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7-  
ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.